

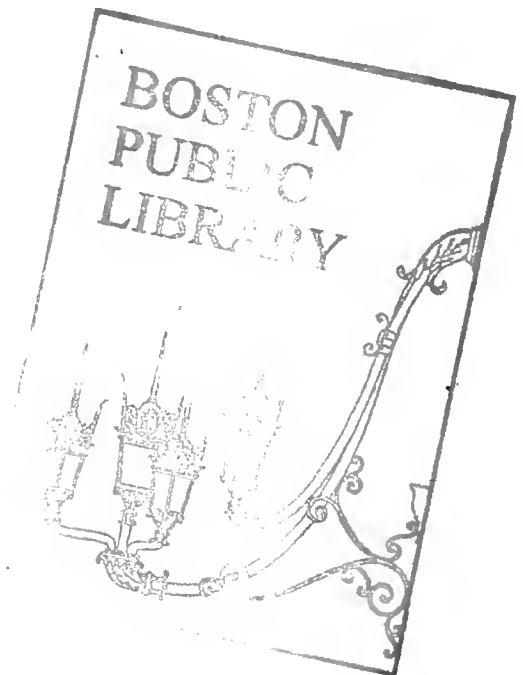
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FIG. 11.1
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PROPOSALS FOR WATER ACCESS FACILITIES
FOR THE
PUBLIC ACCESS BOARD - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Boston Redevelopment Authority

June 9, 1967

Waterfront
B65R
1967

PROPOSALS FOR WATER ACCESS FACILITIES
FOR THE
PUBLIC ACCESS BOARD - DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The purpose of this report is to outline a series of proposals for water access facilities for consideration by the Public Access Board of the Department of Natural Resources. This report has been prepared in response to a request made by the Public Access Board to the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

The recommendations contained in this report have been selected because of their relation to the types of facilities which can be and have been undertaken by the Public Access Board. The Board's principal function is to consider and then designate points of access for construction purposes to the waters of the Commonwealth. Once these points have been designated, the Department of Public Works then becomes the contracting agent of the Board for construction of the access points and their related facilities.

The specific law providing for the establishment of the Public Access Board also provides for the establishment of a Public Access Fund. This fund receives a portion of the fuel excise attributable to the operation of watercraft. These funds can only be expended for the purpose of providing public access and related facilities.

Six sites are proposed in this report for consideration:

- 1) Little Mystic Channel in Charlestown;
- 2) East Boston Waterfront;
- 3) North End Park Area on Commercial Street;

- 4) Downtown Boston Waterfront on Atlantic Avenue;
- 5) Charles River east of the Charles River Dam, and
- 6) Long Island.

The first four sites (Charlestown, East Boston, North End, and Downtown Waterfront) are recommended for consideration as projects which could be implemented within a relatively short period of time. In addition to being ideal locations for the proposed facilities, these sites should receive first priority consideration because the land areas are readily available and either are, or will be, under the ownership of public bodies. The remaining two projects are recommended for consideration in the longer-range programs being developed by the Public Access Board.

The following pages of this report describe briefly each of the water access proposals. The plan diagrams designate the appropriate area of the suggested facility. The accompanying sketches illustrate the type of facility which could be developed for each site.



PROPOSED WATER ACCESS SITES

CHARLES RIVER ESTUARY ①
LITTLE MYSTIC CHANNEL ②
NORTH END PARK ③

EAST BOSTON WATERFRONT ⑤
LONG ISLAND ⑥
DOWNTOWN BOSTON ⑦

LITTLE MYSTIC CHANNELSite Location

The water access facility suggested for the Little Mystic Channel is situated in the Little Mystic Community Center-Recreation Area as proposed in the Charlestown Urban Renewal Plan. The Urban Renewal disposition parcels involved for the recreational areas proposed in the Plan are P3, P8, and P9. The water access facilities would use part of the north bank of the Channel (part of Parcel P8). While no improvements have been scheduled for boating facilities as part of the implementation of the Charlestown Plan to date, portions of the western edge of the Channel will be land-filled in order to create an embankment as well as to create land for some of the recreation facilities to be provided in the area.

Site Description

As indicated on the following sketch, it is suggested that the site be developed to include facilities for automobile and trailer parking, a walkway along the edge of the Channel, public docking spaces for small boats visiting the recreation area, and facilities for lowering small craft into the Channel. This proposal would be an ideal use for this section of the Channel and would complement other auxiliary recreation uses currently programmed in the Charlestown Urban Renewal Project.

Acresage

As illustrated on the following sketch, the facility which is recommended to the Public Access Board for the construction of an access facility would be located on a portion of the 13-acre Parcel P8.

Ownership

According to a "Letter of Understanding" between the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the present owner (Eastern Salt), the Boston Redevelopment Authority will acquire the land by December 1, 1967 and Eastern Salt will vacate by April 1, 1968.

Water Frontage

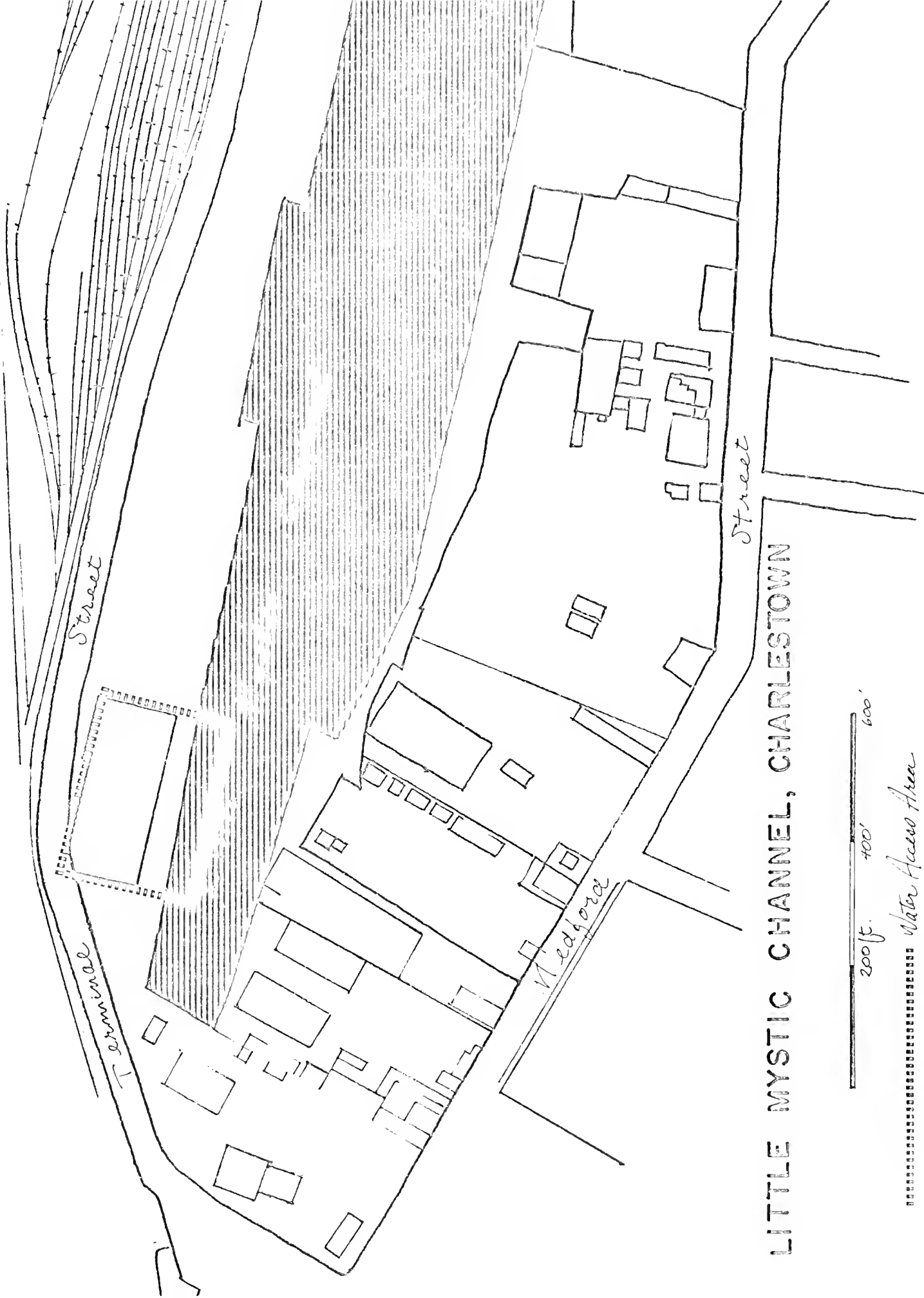
The total water frontage of the Northern bank of the Little Lyatic Channel is approximately 1,900 feet. Only a portion of this frontage situated on the northwestern edge of the Channel would be necessary for the proposed water access facility.

Accessibility

The site is accessible from Terminal Street, and from the expressway system at City Square via Chelsea and Bedford Street.

Existing Structures

As part of the Charlestown Urban Renewal Project, all existing structures will be removed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Wooden piers and piles will be removed and the existing granite seawall will be improved.



LITTLE MYSTIC CHANNEL, CHARLESTOWN

200 ft. 400' 600'

Water Access Area



PAGE LOCATION WATERFRONTSite Location

This site is located on the waterfront of East Boston adjacent to Sumner Street. The recommendation for the water access facility proposes to use three parcels of solid land and piers which are presently vacant.

Site Description

The following sketch illustrates the type of water access facility which is suggested for this site. The location has outstanding views of Downtown Boston's waterfront and skyline and of the Charlestown Navy Yard. Facilities for automobile and trailer parking, boat access to the Harbor, and public docking spaces for small craft are recommended. Due to the proximity of East Boston residential areas, the existing piers would provide pleasant walkways to the Harbor edge as well as provide areas for public enjoyment of the activities of the Harbor.

Acresage

The three parcels recommended for consideration consist of approximately 5 acres, including solid land, piers, and water within the bulkhead line.

Ownership

One parcel situated at the end of Border Street is presently owned by the City of Boston. The remaining two parcels (#27 Border Street and #35 Sumner Street) are owned by the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority.

Water Frontage

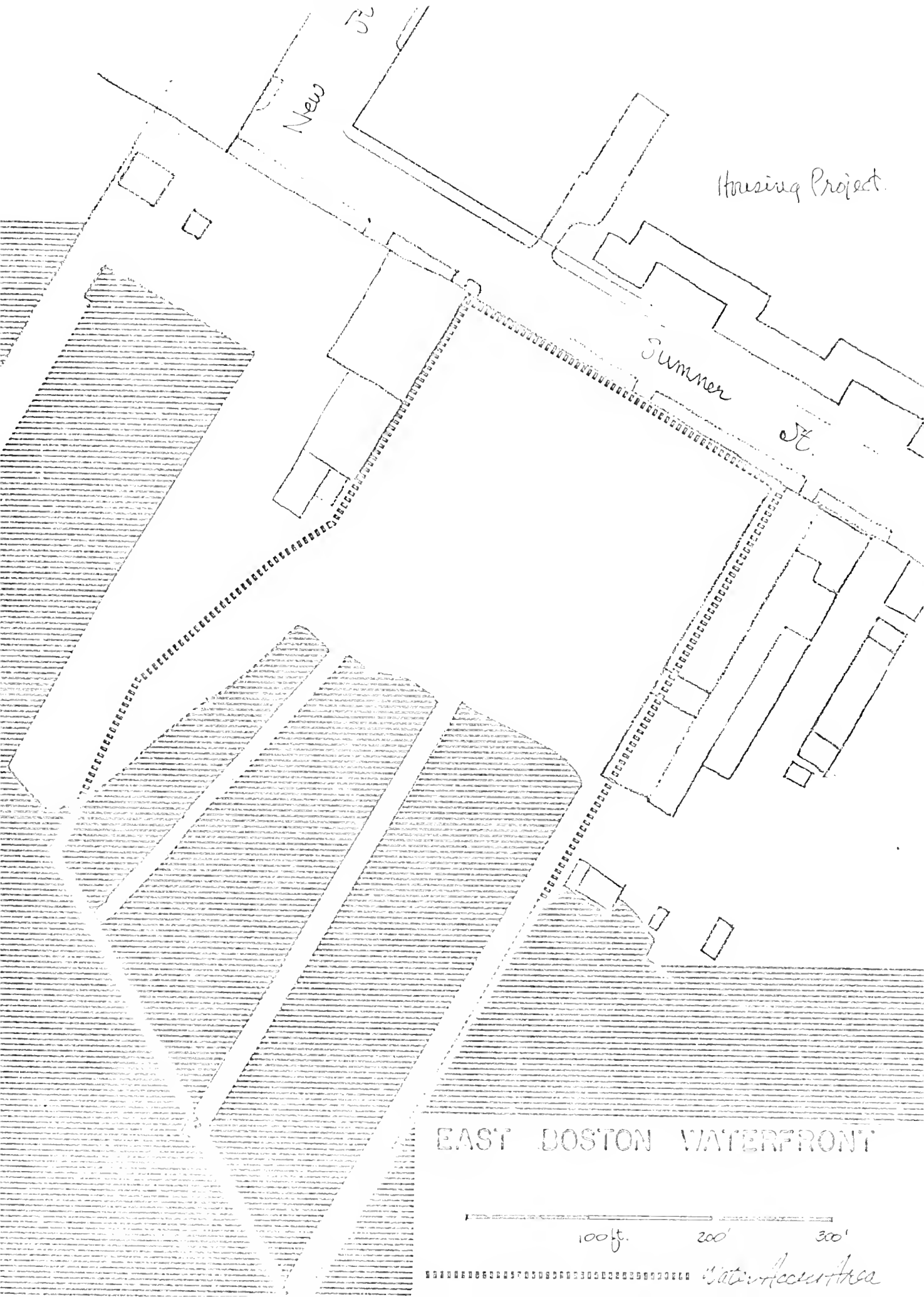
The total water frontage at the pierhead line is 430 feet. Considerably more water frontage is provided by the existing piers at the site.

Accessibility

The site is easily accessible from Sumner Street, and is approximately one-half mile from the Sumner-Collins toll plaza.

Existing Structures

All buildings on the site have been removed and the three parcels are presently vacant and unused. The existing piers appear to be in sound condition.



New

Housing Project.

Summer

St.

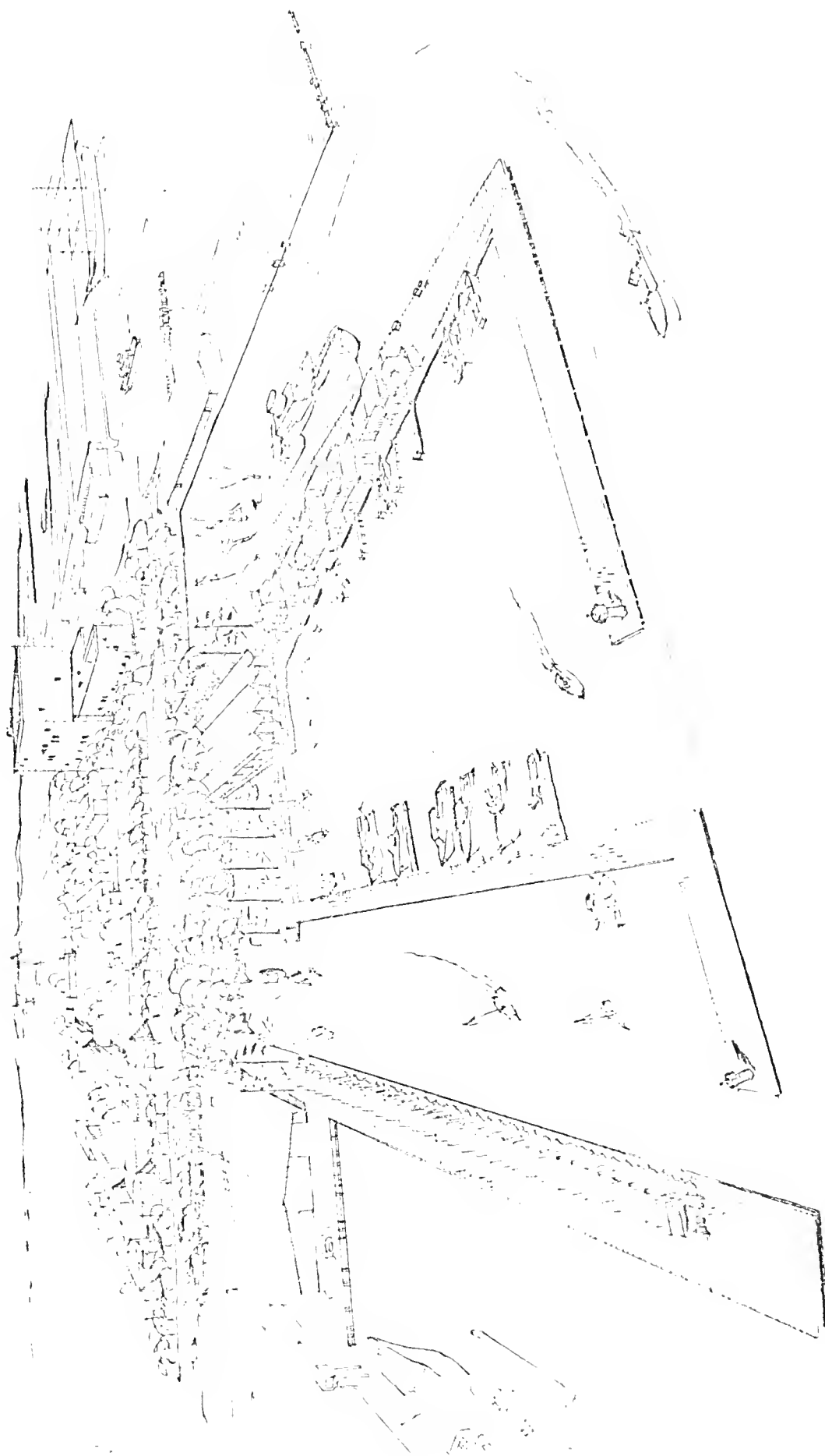
EAST BOSTON WATERFRONT

100ft.

200'

300'

Water Access Area



NORTH END PARK

Site Location

The site is located at the North End Beach and Playground at 471 Commercial Street in the North End of Boston.

Site Description

The major facility proposed for this site consists of a public boat landing situated between the existing park and the Harbor line. This landing, similar to the "embrocadero" which existed at one time at this location, would provide an excellent facility for public access to the water in a heavily congested portion of the City. Aside from the public docking of small craft, the facility would provide a pleasant walkway, areas for pier fishing, and areas for sitting at the Harbor's edge.

While this recommendation contains no provision for the launching of small craft because of the lack of sufficient land at the site, it is possible that such facilities might be considered at a later date for other areas in the North End near this site. As indicated on the following sketch, this proposal illustrates the potential for providing facilities for increased public enjoyment and access to the Harbor.

Acresage

Of the total 6.7 acres comprising North End Beach and Playground, approximately 4.3 acres are used at the present for recreational purposes. The remaining 2.4 acres situated between the park and the Harbor line are now slated to be developed for the water access facility.

Ownership

The site is presently owned by the City of Boston.

Water Frontage

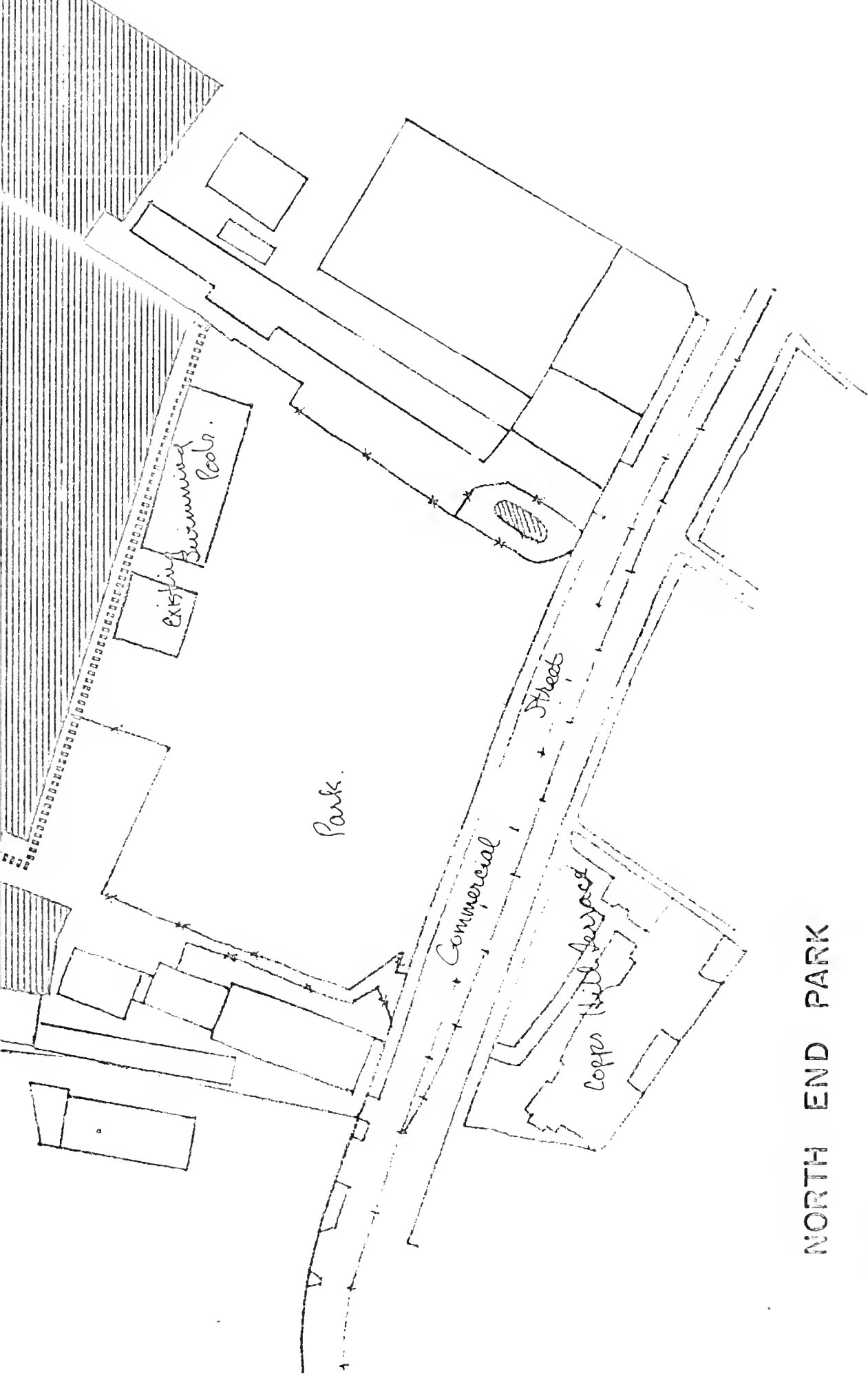
The proposed public landing, pier, and existing seawall would provide approximately 735 feet of water frontage.

Accessibility

Pedestrian access to the proposed site would be from Commercial Street and through the existing park area. The site is conveniently accessible for the residents of the North End.

Existing Structures

There are no existing structures on the site. Structures adjacent to the site consist of a bath house for the swimming pools at North End Park.



NORTH END PARK

100 ft. 200

Water Access Area



DOWNTOWN BOSTON WATERFRONT

Site Location

The water access facility suggested for the Boston Waterfront Area is situated in the vicinity of "F" Wharf in the Waterfront Urban Renewal Project Area. Extensive improvement of the Waterfront for public and private use is proposed for this area by the Urban Renewal Plan.

Site Description

As indicated on the following sketch, it is suggested that the site be developed to include facilities for a public landing and docking facilities for small craft. The facility would also provide access for public enjoyment of the activities of the Waterfront and the Harbor.

Acreage

Approximately one acre of land would be for the public access facility.

Ownership

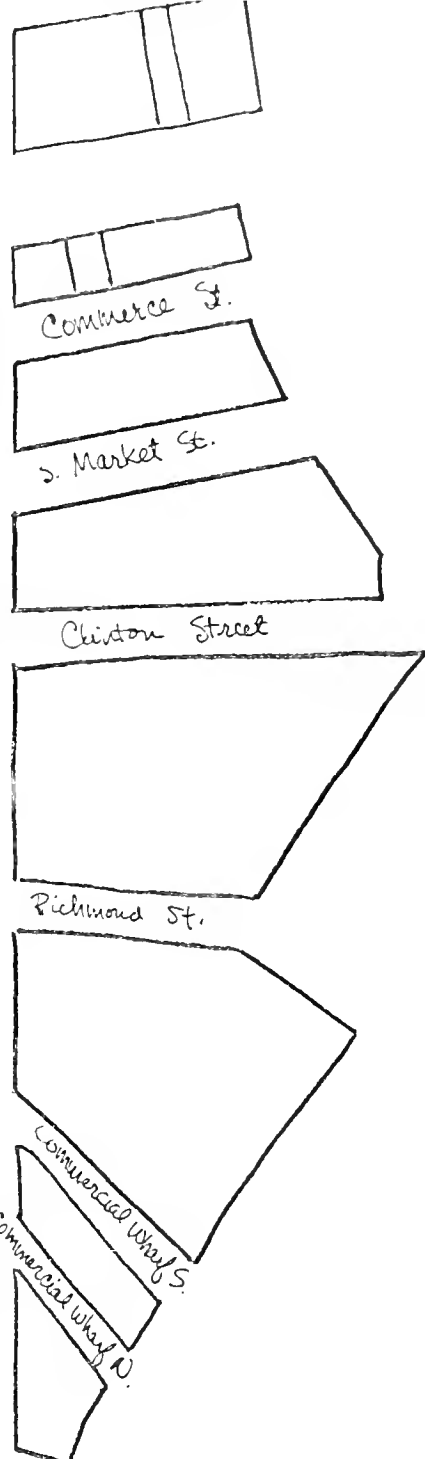
The site is presently owned by the Boston Redevelopment Authority.

Accessibility

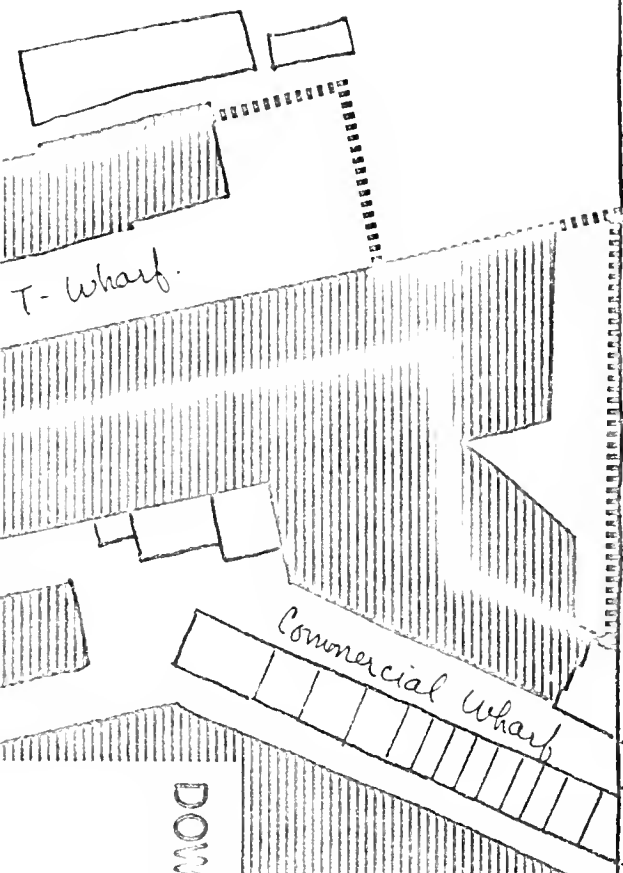
The site is accessible from State Street and Atlantic Avenue as well as from the Central Artery.

Existing Structures

All structures on the site are to be removed by the Boston Redevelopment Authority as part of the Waterfront Renewal Project.



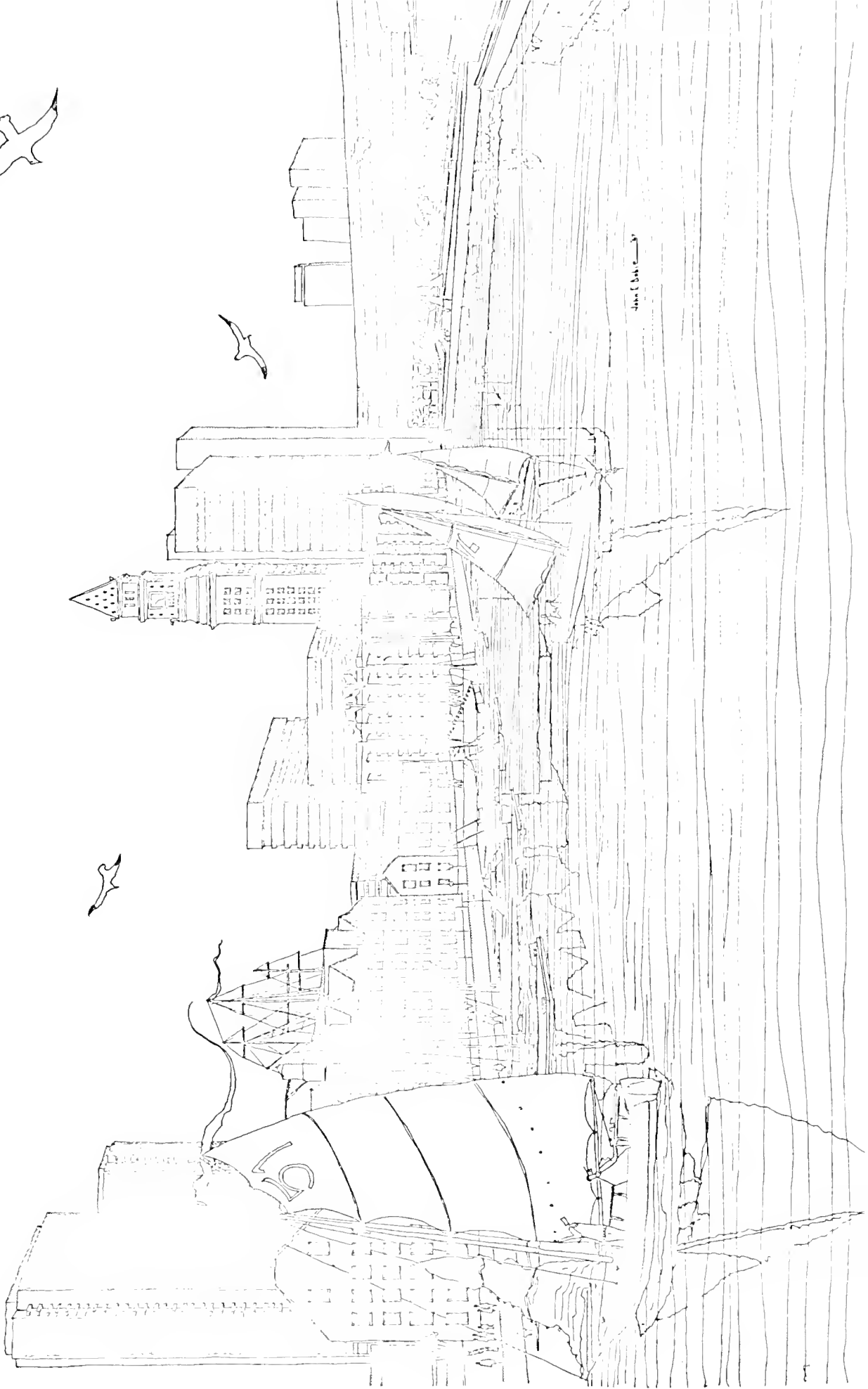
Atlantic Avenue



DOWNTOWN BOSTON WATERFRONT

200 ft. 400' 600'

Water Access Area



Jan 1 1964

CHARLES RIVER - PART OF CHARLES RIVER DAMSite Location

The area of the Charles River situated between the existing Charles River Dam and the Harbor contains numerous sites which have potential for water access facilities as well as other water-oriented recreational activities. This report recommends that this area be considered in terms of longer-range projects which are programmed by the Public Access Board.

Site Description

This portion of the Charles River is of prime importance for additional boat mooring and launching facilities because of the boating traffic pressures on facilities in the Charles River Basin. Projects which are suggested for consideration by the Public Access Board for this area would include launching and mooring facilities, parking for automobiles and trailers, as well as general improvement of the banks of the river for public enjoyment.

Acresage & Ownership

Substantial amounts of vacant land exist along this portion of the Charles. Most of the land areas are presently in private ownership and would have to be acquired for purposes of constructing a water access facility.

Accessibility

Existing access to the river is provided by Beverly Street on the north side of the Charles River.

LONG ISLANDSite Location

Long Island, together with Deer Island, divides the inner and outer waters of Boston Harbor.

Site Description

Many portions of Long Island are exceptional because of their potential for public recreational use. Views of Boston's skyline and Harbor Islands make the shores of the Island highly attractive for future recreational and boating use. Because of the numerous possibilities that exist along the shores of the Island, this report does not suggest a specific site on the Island. However, the following sketch illustrates an example of the type of water access facility which could be located on Long Island.

Acresage

While portions of Long Island are used for hospital structures, extensive areas of the Island are vacant and can be appropriately developed for water access facilities.

Ownership

Long Island is owned by the City of Boston.

Water Frontage

The Island has many areas of unused water frontage areas suitable for recreational purposes.

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Accessibility.

Long Island is accessible from Morrissey Boulevard via Squaw Island, Moon Island, and the bridge and causeway connecting the two islands to the shore.

Existing Structures.

Portions of Long Island are currently used for hospital purposes; however, much of the island remains vacant and unused.

